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the unaffected modes, and cheerful entertainment of rural simplicity. He possessed a palate to make choice of his dish and was no enemy to that moderate glass which adds oil to the wheel of circulating discourse. He received none of his education at the school of scandal, and therefore the blunders of the last party, or the backbiting of his neighbours, formed no part of his conversation. He heartily joined in what good could be said of an absent friend or foe; and was not averse to limit the eccentricities of those who were present, by witty insinuations, and gentle blame. He perused periodical publications, noticed passing events, in town and country, read the gazette, observed modern fashions, and improvements, and thus stood prepared to make remarks on existing circumstances, and "manners as they rose." He was a politician in common with every British subject, but, though a determined loyalist, his political principles never urged him to make a hot or too sanguine opposition to the noisy reformer and wild theorist. To all this it is unnecessary to add his company was courted; Thomas was Welcome in a double sense. He lived beloved, and died lamented.

S E.

*Ballynahinch.**For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

IF the following ideas, which arose after a conversation that took place on hearing an account of the unfortunate termination of Sir John Moore's expedition, is worthy a place in your magazine, you have the liberty of a friend to your publication to insert them.

T.

THOUGHTS ON SIR JOHN MOORE'S
EXPEDITION.

Could we divest ourselves of all those feelings which bind society together, could we lay aside those principles of benevolence and philanthropy which all religions inculcate, and could we view the great end of the last eighteen years of desolating war, which has spread misery beyond even the confines of Europe, then might we rejoice on beholding the carnage

of the well fought field, and see reflected from the flowing blood, as from a mirror, future happiness to mankind, but to us it is not allowed to scan the ways of the Almighty, and although the page of history even tells us, that the wars of Greece and Rome spread civilization and the arts, wherever their triumphant armies fixed their standards, we cannot so far pronounce our feelings, and impress on our minds, the bright images of the future prospect, as not to sympathize with the sufferers in the present contest, and blame those whose folly and ambition, blow the trumpet of war. How long the comfort and happiness of the many, will be sacrificed to the interest of the few, it is not for us to say, but we hope the day is not far distant, when the wisdom of the British nation will triumph over the present opposing obstacles to its happiness, establish its constitution, on those principles of justice which dictated Magna Charta and the bill of rights, shake off totally the galling influence of the feudal system, see true glory alone, in promoting the happiness of the people, and true honour, in fulfilling their engagements with the surrounding nations. Never was a more false position upheld, than that nations should not be bound by the same principles of integrity, as individuals, in vain have Puffendorf and Grotius displayed the principles of national morality, and no wonder that many cry out eternal war, for alliances have been looked upon as only binding so long as a nation was inferior to its ally, and negotiations transacted more like the business of swindlers than the acts of enlightened nations, who might consider, that the more prosperous and populous their neighbours were, the greater field would be opened for their industry to find a reward, and a market wherein to exchange the produce of a different soil and climate, and such is the wisdom displayed in the formation of this earth, that no country produces all the necessaries of even the most simple state of society, still less enough to satisfy the craving appetite of luxurious people, making necessary a communication by which kindness might be extended to

the remotest corners of the earth, and convert mankind into one great family, reciprocally extending their arms to confer benefits on each other. How different is the picture presented to our view on every side, mutual jealousy of prosperity, and industry only directed to acquiring riches and power, in order to vex and destroy each other. Ambition, the dire ambition of possessing all things, of governing all, has wasted the blood of the world, and destroyed the happiness of millions.

From the days of Alexander to the present, it has been the constant practice of contending nations, to endeavour to fix the seat of war in the enemies' country; but unfortunately for England, since the first alarm of revolution engaged her as an acting partner in the war, she has never been able to accomplish this plan, and her endeavours after this grand object, have only brought destruction into the territory of her allies. She has seen state after state, fall before the republican energy of new levies, and the trained bands of the Great Frederick, resist in vain, the impetuous attack, of almost undisciplined recruits; mutual jealousies dividing the continent, the most powerful nations have now bowed before the eagles of France, and left England alone and unfriended to contend for her independence. Whether Mr. Pitt's opinion of the high value of the command of the mouth of the Scheldt, combined with the idea of destroying a few ships of the line, dictated this unfortunate expedition, or that of dividing the attention of Napoleon, it is impossible for us to tell. If, however, the first mentioned objects were the cause of the launching of this immense armament, Mr. Pitt must have been apparently ill acquainted with the form of the adjoining coast, and the present minority of the situation and nature of the island of Walcheren, which from its proximity to other islands, and its flatness must be ever liable to attack, and could not be maintained but at an expence of both men and ships, totally above its value; and if the destruction of the seven ships of the line was the object, it would seem to say to the gallant commanders of the British Navy, we have not such confidence in your powers, but that the destruction of a French ship is to be

desired at however great an expence, and if the opinion prevailed, that by an attack on the coast of Holland the attention and power of France might be divided, it would appear that the planners of the expedition have been very inattentive to the Napoleon mode of warfare, which commands success by never allowing a secondary object to interfere with a primary one. His plan has always been to overcome the greatest obstacle, justly conceiving that the lesser must then give way of course. If instead of dividing our own forces we had concentrated the whole power in Spain, then might we have acted with full effect, and given spirit both to Germany and Spain; unhappily this plan was not adopted, and after a total failure of our schemes on the Scheldt, by the unforeseen and vigorous opposition of the Garrison of Flushing, and mortality which ensued, we have to look at the destruction of our gallant army in Spain, sacrificed we may say, to the feeble and ill concerted efforts of a party contending for the re-establishment of a government as it would appear for which the people were not anxious, no doubt the Spaniards feel themselves in some degree uneasy at the transfer to new masters, unacquainted with their prejudices, and habits, but what has the Junta promised to attach the people to the cause of their dethroned monarch? had they promised Spain a reform of those abuses apparent to the meanest subject, and had England seconded their views, and appeared as guarantee for the due execution of the scheme, then might the people have risen with that energy, which the love of liberty always inspires; then might the throne of Napoleon been made to totter; then might England have met with people worthy of being assisted, and our army combatants and friends equally anxious for glory as themselves.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine,

SIR,

I send you the first oration of Cicero against Cataline, as a specimen of a translation which was intended to be "close, but not so close, as to be servile; free, but not so free, as to be licentious." I request the criticism of